I have now completed the task I had set myself, and hasten to conclude.

We have seen that, owing to various obscure causes, Victoria must have its climate lowered at various times. On the last occasion a miocene plateau, of great height and undetermined area, was ground off the face of the country by glacial ice. Its non-auriferous sandstone yielded the valueless early washes of our goldfields (Selwyn's *Geo. Obs. Vict.*, p. 22). The poor upper silurian shales and slates were next reached, and scoured away over wide tracks, and these yielded the inferior washes of middle date; and last, the rich lower silurian rock was uncovered, and literally quarried away by wedge of frost and chisel of ice, and the *débris* was reduced to boulders, gravel, sand, and clay in the glacier battery. These products, ground-sluiced by the ice-waters, remain behind as the golden washes of the latest period.

We have seen that these operations were not continuous, but were interrupted by periods of warmer temperature. With these changes the ocean oscillated, its waters now rising until Australia was an archipelago, and anon sinking until Bass's Straits were dry land, and a promontory stretched its long horn far southward of Tasmania. And while these operations were proceeding the flora and fauna were being shifted from point to point, exterminated, renewed, and varied in a remarkable manner.

Such is a bald sketch of the picture which presents itself to the mind as one reviews the evidence by the light of the geological revelations of the Northern Hemisphere. It appears to me that a glacial climate in Victoria during post-miocene times will account for many local phenomena which are not explained by the fluvial theory, and will render intelligible many of the peculiarities of our deep leads and of our alluviums.

Art. II.—*The Recent Red Sunsets.*

By Professor Andrew.

[Read 13th March, 1884.]